



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001**

**DAY OF FAMILY, REFLECTION, AND PRAYER**

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**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, every year the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, together with all other people of the United States of America, celebrate the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the day after Thanksgiving Day is recognized in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and around the United States, as a day when we, individually and as a community, usually engage in pre-Christmas and holiday shopping but is usually not a holiday.

**WHEREAS**, the increase of the infection rate in the mainland United States has made us increasingly vulnerable to pandemic surges and people should not engage in mass gatherings and families should remain separated from individuals outside their immediate household.

**WHEREAS**, families globally have had to endure tremendous stress of managing the pandemic, economic stressors and the realities of quarantined lifestyles for more than 8 months.

**WHEREAS**, families have had to endure tremendous loss this year, sometimes losing several members to Covid, other illnesses, and senseless acts of violence in our community

**WHEREAS**, on this day we also remember those who have less good fortune than us, those that are in harm's way in service and defense of their country, those who are enduring troubled times, and those unable to be with their families and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, this year Virgin Islanders have much to reflect upon and give thanks for our resilience in the face of these trying times, and to consider how we can each assist in making our collective lives better. And for this reason, I would like to extend the Thanksgiving Day reflective period by granting administrative leave to non-essential employees working in the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands on Friday, November 27, 2020; and


**WHEREAS**, all Virgin Islanders are encouraged during this extended Thanksgiving Day holiday period to engage in protected family gatherings of reflection and prayer on the continuing effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our lives, families, economy, and resources; and to give thanks for the passing of a very active hurricane season without serious damage; and to stay safer at home during this time.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, and V.I. Code Ann. tit. 1, chapter 11, section 171, do hereby proclaim November 27, 2020, as a "Day of Family, Prayer, and Reflection in the United States Virgin Islands" and commend all residents of the Territory to observe the day with appropriate thankful and reflection activities at home. I do hereby also authorize Commissioners and Agency Heads to grant administrative leave to non-essential employees working in the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The leave granted above shall not apply to essential employees and employees on a regular or rotating shift. Employees on annual or sick leave immediately preceding or immediately following the time period administrative leave is granted will not receive the administrative leave. Future leave will not be substituted for employees who are considered essential and/or whose shift happens to fall on a day in which other employees are granted administrative leave.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, A.D. 2020.



  
Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.  
Lieutenant Governor